



Partnerships for Environmental Public Health: A Program for the Future

Division of Extramural Research and Training,
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences



How did we get to this point?

- Congressional Hearing (9/07)
- Program development began September 2007
 - Commitment to an inclusive process
 - Input from many stakeholders
 - Self-Reflection on existing investments
- Request for Information (11/07)
- Administrative supplement program (1/08)
- Workshop held June 30 – July 1, 2008

<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/funding/grants/announcements/peph/index.cfm>



Definition of Environmental Public Health

The science of conducting and translating research into action to address environmental exposures and health risks of concern to the public.

- Accomplished through the dissemination of science-based information about environmental risks and diseases to communities and other stakeholders.
- Fostering partnerships between and among community residents/organizations, researchers and other stakeholders in the research process, promotes communication of vital information about the linkages between exposures and disease that can be used to promote health and reduce the risk of disease across the populations at highest risk.



Key tenants of the PEPH Program

- Strong focus on prevention
- Unified, integrated and synergistic
- Engage diverse stakeholder communities at all stages
- Research to improve theories, methods and practice
- Value both scientific advances and translational efforts
- Research to action
- Gold standards – promote the best science
- Nimble – responsive to current issues



Goals of the PEPH program

- Strategically coordinate and integrate the various new and existing initiatives that involve communities and scientists working together on contemporary issues in Environmental Public Health research.
- Develop and evaluate strategies to communicate environmental public health messages to a diversity of audiences.
- Create and provide materials to increase awareness and literacy about environmental health risks.
- Evaluate program contributions to the advancement of environmental public health.

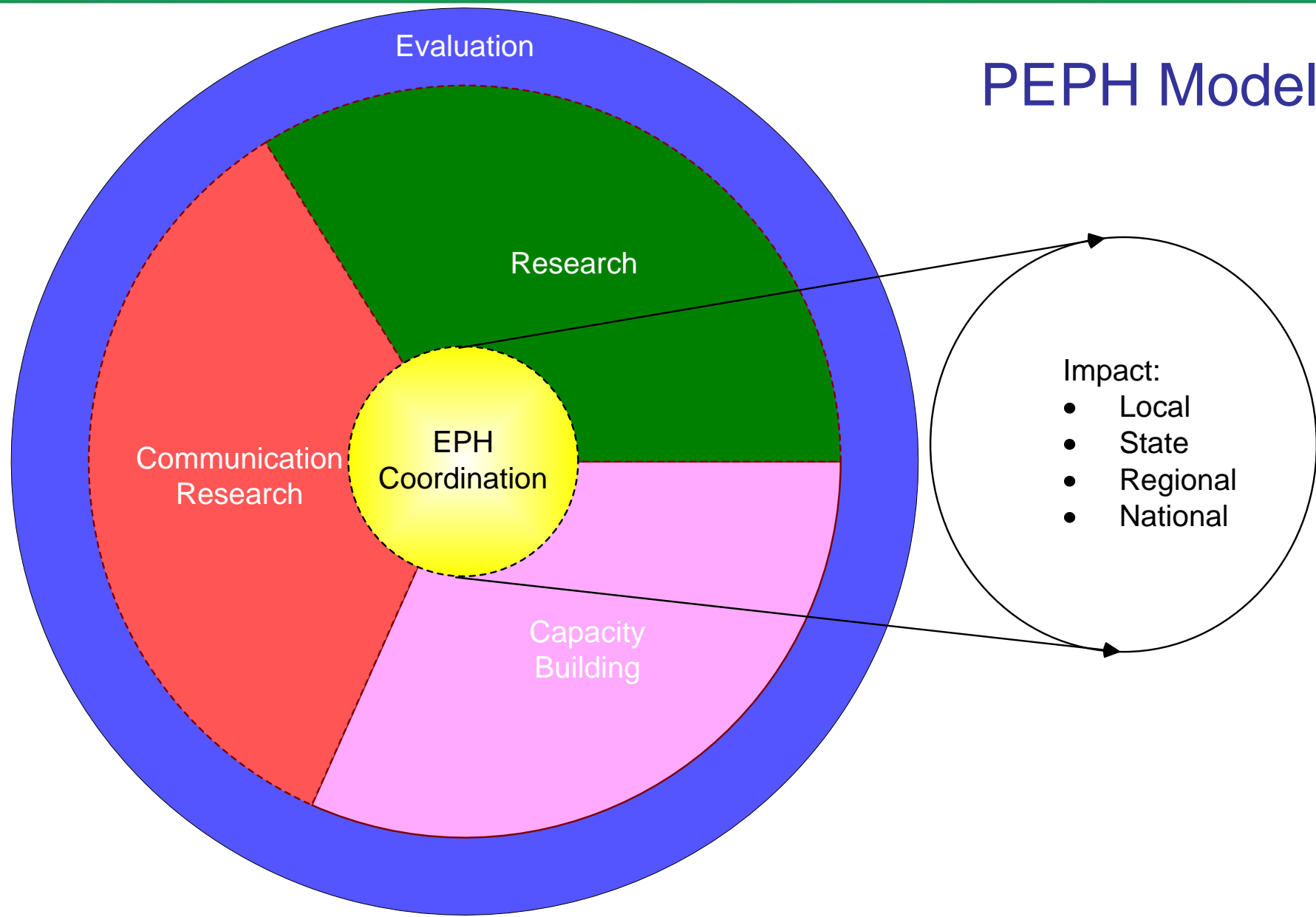


History

- 1994-present Environmental Justice
- 1996-present Superfund Outreach and Translation Cores
- 1996-present Establishment of Community Outreach Programs in NIEHS P30s
- 1996-2004 Community Based Prevention and Intervention Research Program
- 1998-present Centers for Children's Environmental Health
- 2000-2007 Establishment of the COEP Resource Center
- 2000-2007 Science Education
- 2000-2005 Health Disparities
- 2002-2007 Environmental Justice: Built environment / Healthy communities
- 2003-present Environmental Justice: ESLI and genetics
- 2003-2008 Centers for Population Health and Health Disparities
- 2003-2010 Breast Cancer and the Environment Research Centers
- 2005 Hazmat Disaster Preparedness Training Program
- 2005-2009 Obesity and the Built Environment
- 2005-ongoing Trans-NIH Community Participation in Research



Partnerships For Environmental Public Health





Environmental Public Health Research

Requirements:

- Concerns of the community drive the research
 - Scientists and community as EQUAL partners
 - Translation of research findings including creation of outreach materials as part of research
 - Evaluation
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Types of Research:

- Descriptive studies necessary for communities to collect information and/or data to support an action
- Study of the linkage between exposure and disease
- Intervention and prevention studies.



Capacity Building

- Fellowship and career development opportunity for the next generation of scientists engaged in community based research – intensive research experience coupled with training in translation/communication of research to communities
- Communication training for researchers
- Capacity building for health care professionals to apply science based information in their daily practice
- Training of community members in Public Health research methods through hands on experiences
- Training of high school and college students
- Teacher training in EHS and Public Health



Communication and Dissemination Research

- Development of methods and strategies to improve science and health literacy surrounding EH issues
- Understand communication needs for target audiences and selected stakeholders
- Test new methods of electronic, and social network communication strategies for target audiences



Evaluation

- Within the funded projects
 - Evaluation will be required for all PEPH projects
- Program wide efforts
 - Review of existing methods and metrics for evaluation of program-wide success
 - Expert panel input on program wide evaluation strategy to consider short term and long term successes
 - Implementation across all components of program moving forward including on-going data collection from grantees
- Support for development of new evaluation tools and strategies



Coordination

- Funding for Environmental Public Health Resource Center
 - Electronic clearinghouse of grantee developed outreach and educational materials
 - Creation of standards for materials
 - Synthesis of outreach and educational materials on selected EPH topics to create 'NIEHS toolbox'
- Regular meetings of members of the PEPH program across all areas
 - Training and targeted sessions on topics relevant to build a contemporary program
- Coordination with Federal Partners (EPA, CDC, etc.)

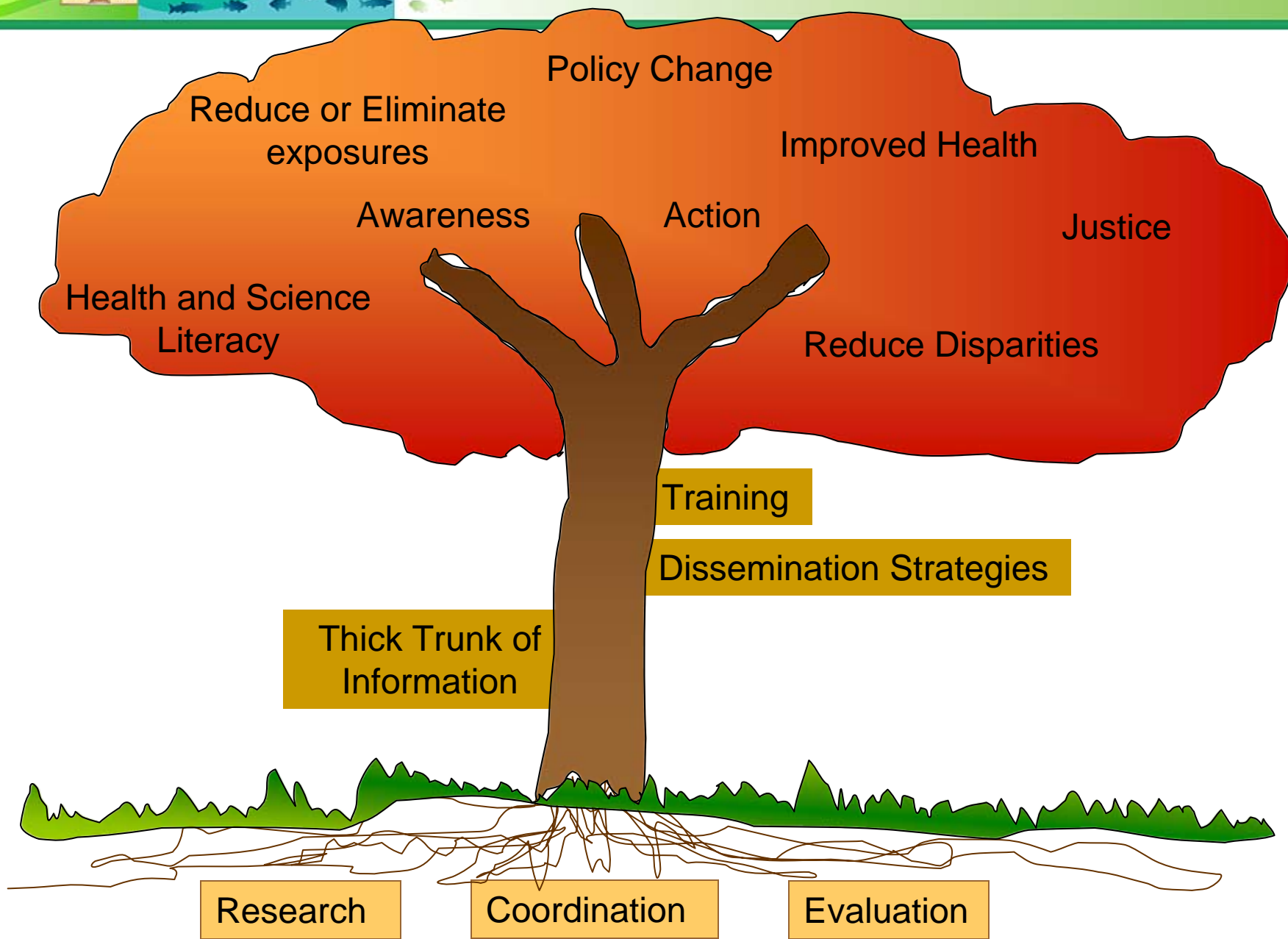


Looking Forward: Next 10 Years

- Provide and promote multiple ways for researchers and communities to obtain support for innovative and creative activities that will place them under the PEPH umbrella
 - On-going Program Announcements
 - Unsolicited applications
 - Funding announcements with set-sides
- PEPH Website
 - Program descriptions
 - Funding opportunities
 - Products and highlights



Partnerships For Environmental Public Health





Partnerships for Environmental Public Health Working Group

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